

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOE ARESIMOWICZ  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Testimony in support of  
*HB 5210, AA Mandating Insurance Coverage of Essential Health Benefits and Expanding  
Mandated Health Benefits for Women, Children and Adolescents*  
and  
*HB 5208, AAC Mammograms, Breast Ultrasounds and  
Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Breasts*

Rep. Sean Scanlon, Sen. Tim Larson, Sen. Kevin Kelly, Chairs, Rep. Rob Sampson, Ranking Member and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on the above-referenced bills. I apologize that I am filing this testimony a late today. Before submitting it, I wanted to take the time to listen to those most impacted by these bills -- the women and young people who came to the Capitol and had the courage to share some deeply personal stories about their health. When the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010, I had hoped that a generations-long battle for healthcare had been won and that the days of people coming to the State Capitol to testify about coverage for pre-existing conditions and basic preventive care were behind us. Unfortunately, we quickly found that the fight for healthcare was far from over. I think most of us acknowledge that "Obamacare" is not a panacea, but the benefits it secured for Connecticut families are priceless.

Almost 750,000 Connecticut women gained access to birth control with no out-of-pocket costs under the ACA. Among other things, **HB 5210** would ensure women can continue to access this benefit. HB 5210 would codify in Connecticut law some of the most important benefits of the ACA, including care for maternity services, newborns, behavioral health, prescriptions, preventive services and pediatric services. The bill would also require health plans to cover domestic violence screenings and counseling, well-woman visits, prenatal care, breastfeeding counseling and supplies, immunizations, and screening and counseling related to reproductive cancers and sexually transmitted infections without out-of-pocket costs or lifetime limits. The bill also requires coverage for contraceptive methods approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration without cost-sharing. The women who testified can best speak to the benefits of